

visits as those made to State and National Parks and wilderness areas combined.

In my home State of New Jersey, tourism is a \$31 billion industry, supporting over 836,000 jobs and generating \$17.7 billion in wages. The vast majority of that revenue is generated by the millions of people who visit our 127 miles of shoreline on an annual basis. These projects provide the businesses and residents located along our shore and driving our economy an important layer of protection from ocean storms. It also lowers Federal flood insurance premiums and reduces the number of claims. Finally, these projects provide vital habitat for numerous species of plants and animals and often protect vital coastal habitats such as wetlands or fresh-water resources.

The Coastal Restoration Act is needed to maintain the Federal program so we can continue to protect and restore our beaches as the national treasures they are.

FALLEN HEROES

SPEECH OF

HON. DAVE WELDON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 20, 2004

Mr. WELDON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commemorate the life and service of Petty Officer 2nd Class Robert Boyd Jenkins, who lost his life near Al-Andar province while on active duty with the U.S. Navy in Iraq on May 2, 2004.

Jenkins honorably served his country for 15 years and was a member of 1st Marine Expeditionary Force assigned to the Naval Mobile Construction Battalion 14 of the Seabees. While he was a member of the reserves he also served as a member of the Martin County Field Operations Team. It was Jenkins' intention to enter full time active duty service sometime in the future. He gave his life defending and protecting the United States from terrorism and bringing freedom and democracy to the people of Iraq who have only known tyranny.

Petty Officer Jenkins is survived by his father, David Jenkins, Rockledge, FL, his wife, Elizabeth Jenkins, and his stepmother, Linda Jenkins.

President Lincoln once wrote that as a nation we should "... have faith that right makes might, and in that faith, let us, to the end, dare to do our duty." Robert dared to do his duty and in so doing he gave the ultimate sacrifice for our continued freedom. We owe him a debt of gratitude that can never be repaid.

A PROCLAMATION RECOGNIZING FRANK A. PARTLOW, JR.

HON. ROBERT W. NEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 3, 2004

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker:

Whereas, Frank A. Partlow, Jr. has shown outstanding service and contributions to the United States Government Printing Office (GPO) during his tenure beginning November 29, 2002; and

Whereas, because of his distinguished career, Frank was asked to serve as the Chief of Staff to the Public Printer of the United States, Bruce R. James; and

Whereas, Frank is a solid leader and demonstrated the ability to effectively juggle many competing priorities. In addition to advising the Public Printer on all aspects of the GPO's business, he also directed strategic planning for the GPO.

Whereas, until his retirement from the United States as an Army Brigadier General in 1990, Frank served as the Director of Estimates of the Defense Intelligence Agency, U.S. Arms Control Delegation in Geneva and saw combat with an infantry division in Vietnam. He is a graduate from the U.S. Military Academy; and

Whereas, Frank is a team player, known for his integrity, fairness, principles, dedication, and solid steady demeanor—he has made GPO a better place. He has served the GPO and our country as a true patriot, and we extend our thanks to him for his service, and wish him all the best for continued success in his retirement; and

Therefore, I join with members of Congress and their staff in recognizing Frank A. Partlow, Jr. for his exceptional work and immense contributions, and in wishing him well in all his endeavors.

IN HONOR OF JOHN "DOC" FENICK

HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 3, 2004

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor John "Doc" Fenick for his years of dedicated public service to his community. Dr. Fenick was honored by the City of Carteret with the naming of the city clock tower on Friday, May 28, 2004, in Carteret, New Jersey.

Dr. Fenick moved to the City of Carteret in 1958, after his service in the United States Air Force during World War II. He was honorably discharged with the rank of first lieutenant, and began his work as a family doctor in Carteret. Dedicated to helping those less fortunate and others within his community, Dr. Fenick provided free physicals for the American Legion and local youth for sports purposes as well as other programs. During his 35 years of practice, he worked closely with the First Aid Squad and Rahway Hospital, where he served as the chairman of the family practice and president of the hospital medical staff.

Dr. Fenick's passion to improve the quality of life for the people in Carteret led him to be elected Mayor. Under his leadership, he helped the City of Carteret obtain funding for the current Police and Fire Department station. He also implemented the Ethnic Day Celebration, which has become an annual event honoring the people in the county and borough.

Dr. Fenick has displayed his leadership skills, serving as the Democratic committeeman, president of the Rotary Club, president of the Honorary PBA, and vice commander of the Catholic War Veterans. He is also a lifelong member of the American Legion, Elks Club, and an honorary member of the Woodbridge Volunteer Fire Company #1.

For his outstanding work and dedication, Dr. Fenick has been the recipient of numerous awards, including the Andrew J. Hila Community Service Award, the Rahway Hospital Humanitarian Award, and was honored with a Joint Legislative Resolution for his work with the American Legion, "Remembering Pearl Harbor Day."

Mr. Fenick received his bachelor's degree from Rutgers University and his degree in Medicine from George Washington University Medical School.

Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring John "Doc" Fenick for his distinguished public service, his dedication to promoting a better quality of life for the residents of Carteret, and his outstanding leadership and devotion to his community.

INTRODUCING THE SMALL DISASTER ASSISTANCE ACT OF 2004

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 3, 2004

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Small Disaster Assistance Act of 2004. This legislation is critically needed. All too often, communities are denied federal assistance from natural disasters because the number of people affected by the disaster do not meet an arbitrary threshold which fails to consider human needs.

An unofficial threshold exists under current Federal Emergency Management Agency regulations that require a minimum of 100 homes to be destroyed or receive major damage during a natural disaster for a major disaster declaration to be warranted by the president. Some may argue that, on the surface, this is a fair regulation. But in practice, it is not. In practice, thousands of Americans are forced to pick up the pieces following a natural disaster with no help from their government.

Every year, thousands of Americans have their homes damaged or destroyed by natural disasters. Yet, the Federal government fails them when it denies a state's request for federal emergency assistance regardless of the number affected.

Just last August, hundreds of my constituents in Riviera Beach and Palm Beach Gardens, Florida were left in the dark and heat—literally—when three tornadoes touched down in Palm Beach County. I, along with Florida's two Senators and Palm Beach County's Congressional delegation, worked with Florida's governor and urged the President to issue a major disaster declaration.

The economic impact of the storms, combined with continued rain, was estimated to be between \$70 million and \$80 million. To make matters worse, many of those affected by the storm were unable to depend on insurance for relief and assistance in recovering from the storm. According to the joint assessment that was done at the time by FEMA, the State of Florida, and Palm Beach County, 81 percent of the homeowners affected were uninsured. For the uninsured, federal assistance was virtually the only way for them to recover.

The effect of the storm was drastically compounded when the historical economic and social hardships of the communities most affected were included in the assessment. Although it is difficult to place a dollar amount